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Amendments to the Claims:

1-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A DSS terrestrial-satellite communications network including an existing base of IRDs at different user locations, each IRD including a first high-speed port to provide a data link of sufficient bandwidth to stream broadcast television signals for real-time display on a video display device and a first low-speed serial data port, ordinarily used to debug the IRD, having insufficient bandwidth to stream the television signal for real-time display, for delivering information to a viewing device without the need for a user to possess additional communications hardware, the wherein the improvement to the network to redirect additional information in the satellite broadcast data stream at a user location comprises: comprising:

A video display device for displaying broadcast television signals;

A viewing device having a serial data port for receiving, storing and displaying additional information;

A data link from the IRD's first low-speed serial data port to the viewing device's serial data port; and

An IRD configured to receive a satellite data stream including a plurality of television signals and additional information, said IRD comprising,

means for receiving and decoding the television signals and additional information from the data stream;

a first high speed port to provide a data link to the video display device, said high-speed porting having sufficient bandwidth to stream the television signal over the data link for real time display on the video display device,

a second low-speed serial data port, ordinarily used to debug the IRD, configured to provide a data link to the interactive viewing device, said serial data port having insufficient bandwidth to stream the television signal over the data link for real-time display on said viewing device, and

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software means for reconfiguring the existing IRD to extract ~~extracting~~ the additional information from said data stream and send ~~sending~~ the additional information through said second low-speed serial data port, ordinarily used to debug the IRD, to the viewing device without internal modification of the existing IRD hardware.

46. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 45, wherein the ~~extraction~~ software means extracts and sends only the additional information through the serial data port.

47. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 45, wherein the bandwidth of the IRD's second low-speed serial port does not exceed 115,200 bits per second.

48. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 45, wherein the bandwidth of the IRD's second low-speed serial port is approximately 4,600 bits per second.

49. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 45, wherein the software means for extracting the additional information pushes the additional information to said viewing device.

50. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 49, wherein the viewing device is only configured to receive the additional information from the IRD through the second low-speed serial data port.

51. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 49, wherein the television signals and additional information are carried on discrete broadcast channels in the satellite data stream, the additional information including HTML-formatted Web data retrieved from the Internet and pushed into the satellite data stream on a particular channel, said IRD being tuned to the particular channel for at least a predetermined amount of time to push the Web data through the low-speed serial data port to the viewing device where the Web data appears as a seamless Web site.

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52. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 49, wherein the television signals and additional information are carried on discrete broadcast channels in the satellite data stream, the additional information including a program guide for a plurality of said discrete broadcast channels with advance television program schedules pushed into the satellite data stream on a particular channel, said IRD being tuned to the particular channel for at least a predetermined amount of time to push the program through the low-speed serial data port to the viewing device.

53. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 49, wherein the television signals and additional information are carried on discrete broadcast channels in the satellite data stream, the additional information including program guide information for each of a plurality of said discrete broadcast channels, said program guide information being coupled to the respective discrete broadcast channels, said IRD being tuned to a particular discrete broadcast channel so that the particular broadcast television signal is sent through the first high-speed port to the video display device and said means extracts the program guide information from the particular channel and pushes it through the second low-speed serial data port to the viewing device so that the program guide information pushed to the viewing device changes as the user changes channels.

54. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 53, wherein the program guide information for a particular discrete broadcast channel only includes schedule information for that channel.

55. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 53, wherein the viewing device does not include a control port for sending commands to change channels.

56. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 48, wherein the viewing device monitors the serial data port and displays an icon informing a user when additional information is being transmitted from the IRD to the viewing device.

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57. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 56, wherein the viewing device displays a different icon informing a user when the additional information has been received

58. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 49, wherein the viewing device does not send commands to said IRD or said video display device to change channels.

59. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 45, wherein the viewing device does not have access to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) other than Web data downloaded in the additional information.

60. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 49, wherein the Web data includes a Web page and a plurality of hyperlinks to give the user the impression of being connected to an interactive ISP.

61. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 45, wherein the television signals are carried on discrete broadcast channels in the satellite data stream, the additional information is coupled to particular discrete broadcast channels based upon the subject matter of the additional information being similar to the subject matter of the broadcast television signal in that particular discrete broadcast channel.

62. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 61, wherein the additional information includes Web data.

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63. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 45, wherein the television signals and additional information are carried on discrete broadcast channels in the satellite data stream, the additional information including Web data that is coupled to a particular discrete broadcast channel, said IRD being periodically tuned to that particular discrete broadcast channels for said means to extract the Web data from that channel and transmit it over the serial data port to the viewing device, wherein said television broadcast signal in said particular discrete broadcast channel is not transmitted over the first high-speed port to the video display device.

64. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 45, further comprising:

means for selecting, acquiring and editing the additional information;

a first network computer having memory storage means for storing said additional information;

a central network computer having memory storage means for storing television broadcast signals in discrete broadcast channels;

means for transmitting the additional information from said first network computer to said central network computer;

means in said central network computer for coupling the additional information to one or more discrete broadcast channels

one or more communication satellites for receiving and transmitting the satellite data stream;

uplink means coupling said discrete broadcast channels to said satellites in the form of said data stream; and

downlink means coupling said data stream from said satellites to a receiving antenna situated within said satellite's coverage area, said receiving antenna being connected to said IRD.

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65. (Currently Amended) A DSS terrestrial-satellite communications network including an existing base of IRDs at different user locations, each IRD including a first high-speed port to provide a data link of sufficient bandwidth to stream broadcast television signals for real-time display on a video display device and a first low-speed serial data port, ordinarily used to debug the IRD, having insufficient bandwidth to stream the television signal for real-time display, for delivering information to a viewing device without the need for a user to possess additional communications hardware, the wherein the improvement to the network to redirect additional information in the satellite broadcast data stream at a user location comprises: comprising:

A video display device for displaying broadcast television signals;

A viewing device including a first low-speed serial data port, a memory, and a software application that only retrieves data from the serial data port and saves the retrieved additional information in said memory;

A data link from the IRD's first low-speed serial data port to the viewing device's serial data port; and

~~An IRD configured to receive a satellite data stream including a plurality of discrete television broadcast channels that carry broadcast television signals and additional information, said IRD comprising;~~

~~_____ A receiver/decoder for receiving and decoding the television signals and additional information;~~

~~_____ a first high speed port to provide a data link to the video display device, said high-speed porting having sufficient bandwidth to stream the broadcast television signal for real-time display on the video display device;~~

~~_____ a second low speed serial data port, ordinarily used to debug the IRD, reconfigured to provide a data link to the first low speed serial data port on the viewing device, said data link having insufficient bandwidth to stream the broadcast television signal for real-time display on said viewing device, and~~

software means downloaded via the satellite broadcast data stream and installed on the existing IRD without internal modification of the existing IRD hardware for extracting the

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additional information from said discrete broadcast channel(s) and pushing only the additional information through said second low-speed serial data port, ordinarily used to debug the IRD, to the viewing device.

66. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 65, wherein the viewing device does not send commands to said IRD or said video display device to change channels.

67. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 65, wherein the additional information is coupled to particular discrete broadcast channels based upon the subject matter of the additional information being similar to the subject matter of the broadcast television signal in that particular discrete broadcast channel.

68. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 67, wherein the additional information includes Web data.

69. (Currently Amended) A method of reconfiguring an existing base of IRDs in a terrestrial-satellite communications network to redirect additional information in a satellite broadcast data stream to a viewing device, said IRD including a first high-speed port to provide a data link to send broadcast television signals to a video display device and a first low-speed serial data port ordinarily used to debug the IRD, said viewing device having a serial data port, the method comprising:

Inserting software means for extracting additional information from a satellite broadcast stream into a satellite broadcast stream;

Inserting additional information into a satellite broadcast data stream along with broadcast television signals;

Downloading and installing ~~installing~~ on the existing IRD said software means for extracting additional information from said satellite broadcast data stream without internal modification of the existing IRD hardware and sending the additional information out said second

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low-speed serial data port;

Providing a data link from the IRD's first low-speed serial data port to the viewing device's serial data port to send the additional information to the viewing device; and

Providing the viewing device with a software application that automatically retrieves additional information from the serial data port and saves it in said memory.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said data stream includes a plurality of discrete channels, said additional information being coupled to one or more television signals in said discrete channels.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said additional information is coupled to a particular television signal based upon the subject matter of the additional information being similar to the subject matter of the television signal in that particular discrete broadcast channel.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein the ~~extraction~~ software means pushes the additional information out said second low-speed serial data port.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the said data link has insufficient bandwidth to stream the broadcast television signal for real-time display on said viewing device

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said television signals and said additional information are carried on a plurality of discrete channels in said data stream, further comprising tuning the IRD to a particular channel for at least a predetermined amount of time to push the additional information through the low-speed serial data port to the viewing device.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the software application on the viewing device only retrieves data from its serial data port.

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76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the viewing device does not send channel changing commands to the IRD or the video display device.